



February 11, 2025

RE: Letter of Support

To Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety,

I am writing to you as a Douglas County Grant Administrator and recipient through the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. Here in Douglas County, we have received funds to assist our programs I work with for:

- Drug Court
- Mental Health Court
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program in the jail
- MAT program in the jail
- IMPACTS for our Mobile Crisis Program

Without those vital grant funding opportunities, our Local Public Safety Coordinating Council involvement, and community partners, we would not be as successful with our programs. Since 2018, our community has moved ideas forward by creating the Mobile Crisis Program, Sobering Center, Crisis Resolution Rooms, Connecting Point Mobile Navigation program and more.

Health equity is ensuring that all people have access to quality services, including underserved populations. Douglas County is full of waterfalls, rivers, trails and has a piece of the Pacific Ocean. Although those are reasons why we live in a beautiful area, it is also why we face challenges related to geographical isolation. Some of the most isolated residents live in Reedsport, about a 1.5-hour drive from Roseburg, or in Glendale, at the very southern tip of the County, 46 miles away from Roseburg. Most services are in the hub of the county which is Roseburg. Because of isolation areas, internet and phone service connectivity is an issue. Timber used to be a profitable income source but has since been drastically reduced from \$50 to \$15 million, which is why grant funding is so important to our communities and County.

The Douglas County jail maximum capacity is approximately 240 beds, but there is an average daily population of 195 people. A Discharge Planner was hired for the jail through separate grant funding. This position's goal is to provide the highest level of discharge planning possible and develop a collaborative and comprehensive case planning process for re-entry. To ensure smooth reentry into the community and lower risks for gaps in care, prior to an individual's release the discharge planner provides care coordination for appointments including a care plan that supports the individual at the point of release and as they transition back into the community. Network and outreach to the agencies that provide services helps create referral pathways for the discharge planning process pre and post release.

Douglas County – 1036 SE Douglas Avenue, Room 105A, Roseburg Oregon 97470



The Local Public Safety Coordinating Council also plays a large role in community collaboration and partnerships as it is from their leadership roles on the Council that they all learn the importance of the judicial system, community corrections, public safety, and the underserved populations. The LPSCC Behavioral Health and Housing Subcommittee meets monthly to review and learn about options in the County and to hear from a different community organization to bring forward consistent and new information to all partners. The IMPACTS Committee meets every other month to discuss mobile crisis, disposition calls of service to 911 for people with mental health concerns, and shares challenges and success stories of what takes place in the area. In 2023, there were 3,270 calls to 911 whereas in 2024, there were only 264. This has clearly shown a positive shift for people to utilize the 988 program rather than calling 911 and was also proven from reports provided monthly by the Mobile Crisis Program and their increased call volume.

The RSAT program saw higher numbers in 2024 and for Drug Court, there were 21 graduates who saved \$4,565,334.40 in state prison costs by staying in our local programs. Of those graduates, 8 had also completed and graduated from the RSAT program. These graduates are now productive members of the community with jobs and some even furthering their education to obtain their GED or taking college courses. When reviewing the statistical graphs on the CJC website, Douglas County has shown the shift of having lower recidivism rates compared to the state and nearby counties. We have worked hard to better our programs, have stronger partnerships, and stay on top of current grant opportunities that allow us to continue to thrive and make a difference in people's lives and the overall safety of communities in our County.

I am in favor of the proposed budget by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission so they may continue with their mission to provide funds to counties in Oregon who are trying to create programs, strengthen programs, add to programs, and keep lives at a level of growth, stability, health, all while promoting safer communities. With all the changes people go through, it is important to remain consistent with our programs and level of care. We greatly appreciate all the grant funds and assistance received over the years and hope to continue a strong partnership moving forward with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.

Sincerely,

Koree Tate

Douglas County Programs/Partnerships Coordinator  
LPSCC Coordinator  
Grant Administrator – Specialty Courts  
HIPAA Compliance Officer/Program